

Instructions to State Governments for opening Fair Price Shops for selling Cheap Cloth

*400. SHRI AHMED M. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued certain instructions to the State Governments for opening fair price shops for selling cheap cloth to the poor sections of the country;

(b) whether Government are aware that the quota cloth allotted to these fair price shops are being sold in black market and the shops are always out of stock of the cheap products; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to check it?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). All retail outlets selling controlled cloth are required to sell the cloth in accordance with the orders issued by the various State Governments who are the 'competent authority' under the Cotton Textile (Control) Order in each State/Union Territory for regulating the sale of controlled cloth. If any specific complaint regarding sale of cloth in black market is received, the same will be investigated and appropriate action taken.

Decline in the prices of Vanaspati Ghee and other essential commodities after assurance by Traders

*401. SHRI SHIV SAMPATI RAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state the extent to which the prices of vanaspati ghee and other essential commodities came down after

the assurance by the traders to the Government that they would bring the prices down?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): Representatives of the Vanaspati Manufacturers gave an assurance on 6 May, 1977 that the price of a 16.5 kg. tin of vanaspati inclusive of excise duty, would not exceed Rs. 158/-. Ruling prices, wherever they were below this, would be maintained at that level. At that time the ruling price was generally between Rs. 166 and Rs. 168. Since about the middle of May, the price has been generally stable at Rs. 158/-.

Two main manufacturers of packaged tea reduced the prices of various brands of packaged tea by about Rs. 2 per kg. Between April, 1977 and the latest sale on 4 July, prices of tea in Calcutta auctions came down by a little over Rs. 10/- a kg.

As regards other essential commodities, there was an announcement in the Press that a number of industrialists at Bombay and Calcutta had voluntarily decided not to increase the prices of the products manufactured by them till 31st December, 1977. Since that announcement, the wholesale price index for the major group of manufactured products in the all-commodities wholesale price index has marginally gone up.

Termination Notices served by L.I.C. to Field Workers

*402. SHRI P. K. KODIYAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation has served 15-day termination notices on 150 of its field workers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;